



*DW*

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

RACE et al.

Atty. Ref.: 839-1524; Confirmation No. 6582

Appl. No. 10/824,487

TC/A.U. 3745

Filed: April 15, 2004

Examiner: Ninh H. Nguyen

For: ROTATING SEAL ARRANGEMENT FOR TURBINE BUCKET COOLING  
CIRCUITS

\* \* \* \* \*

October 11, 2005

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

The Examiner in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance on page 2 identifies the application as directed to certain non-obvious improvements over U.S. Patent No. 4,484,858 and then goes on to identify those alleged improvements. Applicants submit that the patentability of the invention as claimed is and should be determined by the subject matter of the invention as claimed in its entirety rather than based on certain elements of the claims which the Examiner identifies as "improvements" apparently believing that those "improvements" alone impart patentability. While those identified "improvements" constitute a portion of the claimed subject matter, they do not constitute the entirety of the claimed subject matter and it is the entirety of the claimed subject matter on which patentability is based under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 103.

RACE et al.  
Appl. No. 10/824,487  
October 11, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: Richard G. Besha  
Richard G. Besha  
Reg. No. 22,770

RGB:lcb  
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22203-1808  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100